REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of the subject application are respectfully requested. By this Amendment, claims 1 and 14 have been amended and no new matter is added. Claims 1, 3, 5-15 and 19-27 are all the claims pending in the application. Applicant respectfully submits that the pending claims define patentable subject matter.

The Examiner rejected claims 1, 3, 5-15, and 19-27 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Harumoto (U.S. Pat. Appln. Pub. 2002/0021909). Applicant respectfully traverses the 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as set forth below.

The following remarks are for independent claim 1 but apply by analogy to independent claim 14.

Amended claim 1 recited in part:

> an information transmission module that is arranged at a specific location facing a preset posterior circumferential position where each of the multiple recording agent cartridges reaches after formation of a corresponding color component image at an image-forming circumferential position, said information transmission module transmitting information regarding cumulative consumption of recording agents with the additional consumption of the recording agents during formation of a corresponding color component image in a contactless, storable manner to a storage element mounted on a certain recording agent cartridge, which has just completed formation of a corresponding color component image at the image-forming circumferential position and has moved in the circumferential direction to the posterior circumferential position; and
>
> a control module that controls said information transmission module to store image formation-relating information, which regards formation of the color image by said image formation module, into each of said storage elements mounted on said multiple recording agent cartridges.

The Examiner maintains that Harumoto generally discloses the features of claim 1.

Harumoto states that "after the counter to count the used amount of the developer in association with the printing operation is incremented (step 110), it is determined whether or not the printing JOB is completed (step 111). If the printing JOB is not completed, the MCU returns to step 109 and continues the printing operation (step 109). If the printing JOB has been completed, the MCU communicates with the storage medium member 91 called "CRUM" in the developer cartridge 50 through the communication portion 92 on the apparatus main body side, and writes data in the counter to count the used amount of the developer in the storage element 94 in the storage medium member 91 in the developer cartridge 50 (step 112), and the operation ends." (paragraph [0088])

Harumoto fails to teach or suggest that the information transmission module transmits information regarding **cumulative consumption of recording agents** [1] **with the additional consumption of the recording agents during formation of a corresponding color component image to a storage element** mounted on a certain recording agent cartridge, [2] **which has just completed formation of a corresponding color component image**.

Harumoto discusses transferring color toner images (e.g., yellow, magenta, cyan, and black) to an intermediate transfer belt 9 and then transferring the superimposed image onto the recording medium (paragraph [0043]). These steps are repeated multiple times to complete a printing job. With regard to Figure 13 and paragraph [0088], it is asked whether a printing job is complete (ST 111), and if so, data is written into the storage medium member 91 after completion of the printing job but not after completion of a corresponding color component image. Nowhere does Harumoto teach, suggest, or imply transmitting the cumulative consumption of recording agents with the additional consumption of the recording agents during

formation of a corresponding color component image in a contactless, storable manner to a storage element mounted on a certain recording agent cartridge, as recited in claim 1. Harumoto is silent with respect to transmitting, to the storage element, the consumption of recording agent during formation of an (individual) color component image, as seen in Figure 13 and paragraph [0088].

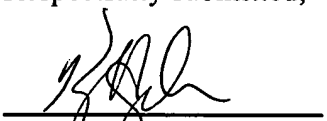
Further, as discussed above, a superimposed image includes combined individual color toner images. Harumoto is not concerned with transmitting to a storage element mounted on a certain recording agent cartridge **which has just completed formation of a corresponding color component image**, and makes no disclosure regarding the same.

For at least the foregoing reasons, claim 1 is not anticipated or rendered obvious by the teaching of Harumoto. Similarly, claim 14 is patentable over Harumoto. Therefore, the 35 U.S.C. § 103 rejection of claims 1, 3, 5-15 and 19-27 should be withdrawn.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Applicant herewith petitions the Director of the USPTO to extend the time for reply to the above-identified Office Action for an appropriate length of time if necessary. Unless a check is attached, any fee due under 37 U.S.C. § 1.17(a) is being paid via the USPTO Electronic Filing System (EFS). The USPTO is also directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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